



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/527,684	03/11/2005	Guillaume De Dinechin	266817US6PCT	7311

22850 7590 11/07/2006

C. IRVIN MCCLELLAND
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

EDMONDSON, LYNNE RENEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1725

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/527,684

Applicant(s)

DE DINECHIN ET AL.

Examiner

Lynne Edmondson

Art Unit

1725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 11, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Obana et al. (USPN 6555779 B1).

Obana teaches an installation (501) for laser welding comprising a laser (504), a filler wire guide, a head with multiple drillings (519,520, central laser passage) passing through the head converging toward each other, two fluid ejection pipes (231,233) before and behind the central drillings and means for adjusting the position of the head (536) (figure 5 and col 15 line 50 – col 16 line 22). However the fluid is disclosed as a liquid rather than a gas.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a pipe capable of ejecting liquid is capable of ejecting gas. While the methods would differ, the structure is substantially the same.

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Obana et al. (USPN 6555779 B1) in view of Tomassini et al. (USPN 4475788).

Obana teaches an installation (501) for laser welding comprising a laser (504), a filler wire guide, a head with multiple drillings (519,520, central laser passage) passing

Art Unit: 1725

through the head converging toward each other, two fluid ejection pipes (231,233) before and behind the central drillings and means for adjusting the position of the head (536) (figure 5 and col 15 line 50 – col 16 line 22). However the means for adjusting the position of the head is not further disclosed.

Tomassini teaches a method of moving a laser device with a micrometric table (figure 2 and col 1 line 62 – col 2 line 5 and col 2 lines 22-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a micrometric table to move the tool in a careful yet precise manner.

4. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Obana et al. (USPN 6555779 B1) in view of Lefebvre et al. (USPN 6608285 B2).

Obana teaches an installation (501) for laser welding comprising a laser (504), a filler wire guide, a head with multiple drillings (519,520, central laser passage) passing through the head converging toward each other, two fluid ejection pipes (231,233) before and behind the central drillings and means for adjusting the position of the head (536) (figure 5 and col 15 line 50 – col 16 line 22). However the welding means are not further disclosed.

Lefebvre teaches an installation for welding with a CO2 or YAG laser sources and a MIG, TIG or MAG arc welder (col 1 lines 21-40, col 3 lines 9-20 and col 4 line 19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use conventional lasers such as CO2 and YAG and to use known arc

Art Unit: 1725

welding means such as MIG and MAG to produce consistent, reliable welds (Obana, col 23 line 60 – col 24 line 4).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 16-18 are allowed.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lynne Edmondson whose telephone number is (571) 272-1172. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on (571) 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1725

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lynne Edmondson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1725

LE
11/5/02

LRE